REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 19, 28 and 36 have been amended. Claims 1-43 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-43 over Milliken

In the Office Action, claims 1-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,978,384 to Milliken ("Milliken"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-43, as amended, recite a system and method for <u>adjusting a range of acceptable nonce values within</u> an acceptance window/replay mask, <u>where the size of the range is based on a largest nonce value yet seen</u>.

Milliken appears to disclose a method of sequence checking (Abstract). Sequence numbers of data packets are compared to a "sliding" window indicating a range of sequence numbers considered valid (or invalid) (see Abstract). Milliken teaches when the sequence number exceeds a top value, a processor calculates a new top value to a value corresponding to the sequence number and also calculates a new bottom value, *i.e.*, the processor slides the window. Col. 9, lines 1-5.

In the February 1, 2007, Office Action (p. 2), the Examiner stated that Milliken discloses that when a new largest sequence number is received, the system adjusts the window of acceptable values. The <u>size</u> of the window, however, is not based on <u>a largest nonce value yet seen</u>. Instead, the window size may be a fixed value or it may be varied based on the expected data rate (or packet rate) of the security association, or the expected maximum delay changes associated with a packet reordering event in a network. Col. 9, lines 8-30. Thus, Milliken fails to disclose a system and method for <u>adjusting a range of acceptable nonce values within</u> an acceptance window/replay mask, where the size of the range is <u>based on a largest nonce value yet seen</u>, as recited by claims 1-43.

A benefit of <u>adjusting a range of acceptable nonce values within</u> an acceptance window/replay mask <u>based on a largest nonce value yet seen</u> is, e.g., reduce confusion between sessions. An acceptance window/replay mask is

used to reject data associated with nonce values that are outside of an acceptable range, i.e., having a nonce values that are too big and/or too small. However it may be desirable in some instances to adjust the size of an acceptance window/replay mask, such as when starting a new session and resetting a nonce value. A previous session's large nonce value may play havoc on a new session starting with small nonce values. When switching sessions to restrict acceptance of a previous session's large nonce values it is desirable to narrow an acceptance window/replay mask. However, once a session is underway it is desirable to broaden an acceptance window/replay mask to prevent unnecessary rejection of data associated with nonce values. The cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features having such benefits.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-43 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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